

inviting that he decided to re-enlist and serve in the Air Force as a lifelong career.

Ray was well aware of the dangers that he would have to endure during his time in Iraq. He had to deal with being away from his family and friends. It was especially hard since Ray had to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas apart from his family and his wife and his young children for the first time. To cope with tough times, Ray would often make jokes to his family while he was away, saying that he was one of the lucky ones.

A firefighter based at Dyess Air Force Base near Abilene, Texas, Ray lost his life trying to rescue fellow soldiers that had fallen into a canal while their particular Humvee flipped over. Ray's mother was told that her son was the first to jump in the water to help the soldiers, and his selflessness in this act demonstrates the best a person can be.

Ray Rangel is the first Air Force member from South Texas killed in Iraq. He is also the ninth U.S. service member from the San Antonio area and the 42nd from South Texas killed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Ray's parents remember that despite criticism leveled at President Bush over the U.S. occupation of Iraq, Rangel did not want his family to be bitter if he got hurt or killed. He would often remind his family that he loved his country and he wanted to serve the best that he could.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to have had this time to honor Staff Sergeant Ray Rangel, a true hero that exemplifies the noblest qualities of the human spirit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

WAR FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for the War Funding Accountability Act, a bill that has been endorsed by the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of moderate to conservative Democrats with reputations for being fiscal and defense hawks. The members of the Blue Dog Coalition are some of the most pro-defense, pro-military Members of Congress, from either party. We are dedicated to seeing our troops achieve success in Iraq and Afghanistan and we applaud the Iraqi people for their recent election success.

The War Funding Accountability Act, sponsored by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), is about those troops, the dedicated men and women of the United States Armed Forces who put their lives on the line every single day to defend our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I believe, as people across our Nation believe, that we must provide our men and women in uniform the resources they need to complete their mission as safely and securely as possible. Our military has performed brilliantly, protecting civilians, maintaining order and promoting democracy while facing threats and guerilla-style attacks every single day. My support for our troops is unwavering, and for that reason I have supported the supplemental requests that have come before this Congress. However, the job of Congress is to make sure that the money we are spending in Iraq is going to the appropriate places, going to our troops to keep our Nation's sons and daughters out of harm's way. We must make sure this job gets done right and gets done as soon as humanly possible.

So until all of our troops are withdrawn from Iraq, we need an accurate accounting method of where the money is being spent so that we can make sure our soldiers are adequately equipped and prepared. Accountability is not only patriotic, it is often determining of success or failure. If our troops do not have proper equipment, such as vehicles without armor plating, rather than them scrounging for scrap metal for do-it-yourself armor plating, we as Members of Congress can and should do something about it by redirecting the money.

The Department of Defense has received \$201 billion to date for the war on terrorism. While they have provided an allocation of some of these funds, they have not given Congress a full accounting. The White House has announced today that it will request \$81 billion more for these operations in its fiscal year 2005 wartime supplemental, including \$75 billion for the DOD. In addition, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the costs for the war could approach \$500 billion between this year and the year 2015.

There have been reports of wasteful spending. One private contractor, for example, overcharged DOD by \$61 mil-

lion to import gasoline into Iraq from Kuwait where the government agency provided the same service for less than one-third the price.

□ 2000

The same contractor reportedly charged taxpayers \$10,000 a day for unauthorized and unnecessary expenses at the Kuwait Hilton, even though the same people could have stayed in air-conditioned tents like those used by our troops for less than \$600 per day. The entire justification for having private companies is that contractors can supposedly save the taxpayers money, not cost the taxpayers dollars.

With the War Accountability Act we have an opportunity to regain the oversight voice that has been lost for too long.

Congress should not give up its oversight powers, Mr. Speaker, the power of the purse. And it should not write the Defense Department a blank check. The President needs to be held accountable for where our money is going. This is a responsibility that we have to the men and women serving in combat, to their parents, and to all American taxpayers who are footing the bill to ensure that the billions of dollars in supplemental funds are going to be spent in the most effective and efficient way possible.

I hope all of my colleagues will stand with the Blue Dog Coalition and start to support the War Funding Accountability Act, an act for America.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush submitted his budget to Congress last week, he said it represented his values and his priorities. If that is indeed the case we really should question both.

One really has to wonder if this budget document represents his priorities. You will remember 2 weeks ago during his State of the Union address, President Bush spent the majority of that speech talking about his Social Security privatization plan and the continued war in Iraq. Supposedly these were his priorities for the upcoming year.

And yet the President did not include the additional \$80 billion needed to fund the Iraq war or the trillions that will be needed over the next decade to fund his costly Social Security privatization proposal in his budget.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible for the President to reverse our Nation's fiscal collapse if he continues to send incomplete budgets to Capitol Hill. The President can say that he is going to cut the Federal deficit in half in several years; but the fact is, that cannot happen if the President does not send us an honest budget.

If Social Security and the war in Iraq are the President's priorities, then he should have no problem placing them in his budget and explaining to the American people why these billions of dollars must be used in Iraq and on his Social Security privatization plan.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush also said this budget represents a vision of his values. Now, if that is the case, one really has to question the President's dedication to one of government's main rules, helping those less fortunate. Once again, the President's budget helps provide the blueprint for Republicans to help the wealthiest in our Nation become even wealthier. That is to the detriment of middle-class and lower-income Americans who greatly benefit from many of the programs the President now wants to cut or eliminate, and for what, more tax breaks that primarily benefit our Nation's wealthiest 1 percent?

The President's budget shows his lack of compassion for programs that benefit my State of New Jersey, our middle- and lower-income families in particular. By drastically cutting housing, education, community policing, environmental protection and Medicaid programs, the President is turning his back on middle- and lower-income families in my State of New Jersey.

President Bush's budget makes substantial cuts in important education proposals that are important to my State. The budget provides only half of the funding promised for after-school programs.

In New Jersey, these cuts will mean nearly 33,000 New Jersey children will no longer have access to critical after-school programs. The President's budget also cuts 440 million in Safe and Drug Free School grants, 500 million in education technology State grants, 325 million for the Even Start Literacy program, and 280 million for the Upward Bound program for inner-city youth.

Now, this may sound like a lot of bureaucracy, but these are real education cuts that are going to hurt children. And yet the President has no problem cutting those programs while at the same time continuing his policy of providing large tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans.

Now, these are certainly not my values; I would hope that they were not the President's values. But certainly the budget says the opposite. The President also proposes huge cuts in the Medicaid program. Now, this program serves nearly 930,000 children, seniors and people with disabilities in my State of New Jersey.

It is estimated that the \$60 billion in cuts that the President is proposing will cut one-fourth of the Medicaid money sent to my State over the next decade. And, Mr. Speaker, New Jersey and other States simply cannot pick up this slack. We have a budget shortfall in New Jersey; we cannot pick up the Medicaid slack.

At a time when 45 million Americans are without health care, the President

shows absolutely no compassion for the uninsured by proposing these devastating health care cuts.

The President also refused to follow through with his promise during last week's State of the Union address, or I should say a couple of weeks ago, when he said he would do everything possible to help our soldiers and veterans recover.

Well, if you look at the budget, there is a pitiful half a percent, that is half a percent increase in veterans affairs funding. Now, that is a slap in the face to the millions of men and women who have fought for our country. Congress should not neglect these brave Americans and should instead reject the President's budget proposal when it comes to veterans.

Mr. Speaker, finally I just want to say, the President's budget values and priorities are, in my opinion, not in the best interests of America. It is time that congressional Republicans stand up to this President and let him know that his priorities are not the priorities of their constituents, and I know they are not.

I hope Congress will reject the President's budget proposal in the upcoming months in favor of one that truly takes the needs of working families into consideration. I think this is a very important issue; and I cannot stress enough, and I speak on behalf of my fellow Democrats, in saying that the Bush budget simply cannot be allowed to stand.

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM, 109TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby submit the rules of the Committee on Government Reform for the 109th Congress for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. These rules were adopted by voice vote on February 9, 2005 at an open meeting of the Committee.

THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

RULE 1. APPLICATION OF RULES

Except where the terms "full committee" and "subcommittee" are specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee on Government Reform and its subcommittees as well as to the respective chairmen.

RULE 2. MEETINGS

The regular meetings of the full committee shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m., when the House is in session. The chairman is authorized to dispense with a regular meeting or to change the date thereof, and to call and convene additional meetings, when circumstances warrant. A special meeting of the committee may be requested by members of the committee following the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 2(c)(2). Subcommittees shall meet at the call of the subcommittee chairmen.

Every member of the committee or the appropriate subcommittee, unless prevented by unusual circumstances, shall be provided with a memorandum at least 3 calendar days before each meeting or hearing explaining (1) the purpose of the meeting or hearing; and (2) the names, titles, background and reasons for appearance of any witnesses. The ranking minority member shall be responsible for providing the same information on witnesses whom the minority may request.

RULE 3. QUORUMS

(a) A majority of the members of the committee shall form a quorum, except that two members shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence, and one-third of the members shall form a quorum for taking any action other than the reporting of a measure or recommendation. If the chairman is not present at any meeting of the committee or subcommittee, the ranking member of the majority party on the committee or subcommittee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

(b) The Chairman of the committee may, at the request of a subcommittee chairman, make a temporary assignment of any member of the committee to such subcommittee for the purpose of constituting a quorum at and participating in any public hearing by such subcommittee to be held outside of Washington, DC. Members appointed to such temporary positions shall not be voting members. The Chairman shall give reasonable notice of such temporary assignment to the ranking members of the committee and subcommittee.

RULE 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bills and resolutions approved by the committee shall be reported by the chairman following House Rule XIII, clauses 2 and 4.

A proposed report shall not be considered in subcommittee or full committee unless the proposed report has been available to the members of such subcommittee or full committee for at least 3 calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless the House is in session on such days) before consideration of such proposed report in subcommittee or full committee. Any report will be considered as read if available to the members at least 24 hours before consideration, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays unless the House is in session on such days. If hearings have been held on the matter reported upon, every reasonable effort shall be made to have such hearings available to the members of the subcommittee or full committee before the consideration of the proposed report in such subcommittee or full committee. Every investigative report shall be approved by a majority vote of the committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

Supplemental, minority, or additional views may be filed following House Rule XI, clause 2(1) and Rule XIII, clause 3(a)(1). The time allowed for filing such views shall be 3 calendar days, beginning on the day of notice, but excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays (unless the House is in session on such a day), unless the committee agrees to a different time, but agreement on a shorter time shall require the concurrence of each member seeking to file such views.

An investigative or oversight report may be filed after sine die adjournment of the last regular session of Congress, provided that if a member gives timely notice of intention to file supplemental, minority or additional views, that member shall be entitled to not less than 7 calendar days in which to submit such views for inclusion with the report.

Only those reports approved by a majority vote of the committee may be ordered printed, unless otherwise required by the Rules of the House of Representatives.